Purchase of Rigs from Foreign Countries

1046. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC is getting rigs from foreign companies, despite the BHELs' capacity to provide them on competitive prices ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the number of rigs presently owned or hired by the ONGC for exploration ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Recently ONGC has not purchased any land rigs. However, earlier ONGC was purchasing land rigs from BHEL on nomination basis except when the procurement was under World Bank assistance where it was necessary to float a global tender.

(c) At present ONGC is operating 105 owned and 30 charter hired rigs, for exploration or development drilling.

Complaints Aganist LPG Agencies

1047. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against the L.P.G. Agencies and retail outlets functioning in the country for indulging in malpractices during the year 1991 and 1992 so far ;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints, Statewise ;

(c) what action Government have so far taken or propose to take on those complaints ; and

(d) what steps/measures Government have so far taken to check such complaints in future ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Several complaints have been received during 1991-92 regarding mal-practices indulged in by the LPG dealers and retail outlet owners. Necessary action is taken promptly in this regard.

(c) and (d) The various marketing companies also conduct regular, surprise and joint inspections to check such mal-practices.

Explosion due to Gas Leakage

1048. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a loud explosion took place near Marteru village in West Godavari district in January this year due to gas leakage on the pipeline carrying natural gas from Narsapur pumping centre to a plant at Vijjeswaram ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that dozens of cases of leakage have been reported on this pipeline in the same area over a period of time ; and

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) There was a leakage in the pipeline near Marteru Village in West Godavari District in January, 1992 due to opening of seam of the pipe.

(b) There had been a few leakages in the pipeline in the past, due to opening of seam of the pipes and corrosion.

(c) Yes, Sir. ONGC have conducted a preliminary enquiry to find out the reasons for the leakages.

Supply of Gas for Pipavav Gas Project

1049. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC and Government have asured the Gujarat

[Shri Vithalbhai M. Patel]

Electricity Board that the gas would be supplied to the proposed Pipavav gas based power project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has written to the Chief Minister of Gujarat to expedite the proposed Pipavav Power Project so that gas could be provided;

(c) what is the quantity demanded by the Gujarat Electricity Board of gas for Pipavav Power Project; and

(d) whether Government propose to supply gas to Pipavav gas-based power project when it is ready?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A decision had been taken in principle to allocate gas for the proposed Pipavav Power Project, subject to development of Tapti Offshore fields.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 2.25 MMSCMD for Stage 1 of the project.

(d) The matter regarding development and utilisation of gas in the Tapti Offshore fields is at present being considered.

Selection of Persons for Management Training

1050. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons sent for management training abroad by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation;

(b) what are the criteria for sending the people for management training abroad;

(c) whether I.T.S. Director, London has made any complaint about the selected persons; and

(d) the number of schedule caste and scheduled tribe persons from the Bharat Petroleum Corporation sent for training abroad during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 1989—21

1990—32

1991—15

(b) As reported by BPC, staff are sent abroad on training on a selective basis essentially to develop their effectiveness in management. The selection for training abroad is also done under the Colombo Plan, selection for which is made by Department of Public Enterprises in consultation with British Counsel.

(c) No such complaint has been received by BPC.

(d) 1989 — Nil

1990 — 3

1991 — 2

Departmental Promotion in the Railways Catering Department

1051. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Bearers in the Northern Railways Catering Department who have passed the Higher Secondary Examination of Delhi Board and have put in more than 10 years' service, are still in the same post;

(b) if so, what are the avenues for promotion of these Class-IV employees to Class-III;

(c) whether any quota of Departmental promotion of these employees has been fixed, if so, the details thereof and it not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to improve the service career prospects of those employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.